

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: OES/APT/BMP:TSELLIN

APPROVED BY: OES/APT/BMP:MSBEAUBIEN

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R 270245Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 2726

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BUENOS AIRES 7956 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ROME  
04 DEC 75

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 7956

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, AR, IT

SUBJECT: PLANNED ITALIAN EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

REF: (A) ROME 17306; (B) STATE 285072

1. FACTS OF SITUATION ARE FOLLOWING, ACCORDING TO FOREIGN  
MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ANTARCTIC AND MALVINAS AFFAIRS  
BLANCO:

2. AT FIRST, PRIVATE ITALIAN EXPEDITION CLAIMED THAT IT HAD  
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP. LATER, AFTER SOME  
OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE BY ARGENTINE OFFICIALS, IT SAID IT  
WAS NOT RPT NOT AN OFFICIAL ITALIAN EXPEDITION. THE ITALIAN  
GOVERNMENT DENIED THAT IT WAS AN OFFICIAL GOI EXPEDITION.

3. THE GROUP PROCEEDED TO CHARTER A TRAWLER IN ARGENTINA  
AND ASKED FOR CERTAIN GOA SUPPORT. THE GROUP WAS TOLD THAT  
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IT COULD NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE SUPPORT BECAUSE THE ANTARCTIC

TREATY HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN COMPLIED WITH, OR SOMETHING TO THIS EFFECT. SOME 5-6 MONTHS AGO, THE GOA SUGGESTED TO THE PRIVATE ITALIANS THAT THEY APPLY TO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AS MEMBERS OF AN ARGENTINE EXPEDITION IN WHICH CASE THEY COULD EMBARK ON AN ARGENTINE NAVY VESSEL AND RECEIVE LOGISTIC SUPPORT. THIS SUGGESTION WENT UNANSWERED, AND GROUP PROCEEDED WITH ITS OWN PLANS.

4. RECENTLY, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME INVOLVED. ITALIAN AMB CALLED ON BLANCO AND TOLD HIM GOI WAS UPSET AT GROUP FOR NOT GOING TO ITALIAN MFA IN FIRST PLACE ABOUT IT. AMB INDICATED THAT GOI NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED IN EXPEDITION, BUT HE ASKED FOR GOA HELP, IF POSSIBLE.

5. EXPEDITION HAS REQUESTED SUCH HELP AS AN ARGENTINE EXPERT ON NAVIGATION IN ICE CONDITIONS. GOA HAS CONTINUED TO DECLINE AND CITE ANTARCTIC TREATY AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

6. BLANCO STRESSED THAT GOA HAS NOT RPT NOT BANNED THE EXPEDITION AND COULD NOT RPT NOT DO SO.

7. BLANCO SAYS THAT THE PRIVATE ITALIANS SAY THAT GOI WILL ADHERE TO THE ANTARCTIC TREATY, BUT THE GOI SAYS NO.

8. COMMENT: THERE ARE NO DOUBT OTHER SIDES TO THIS STORY. IN ANY CASE, AND ASSUMING BLANCO IS RIGHT THAT GOA DID NOT AT SOME POINT BANK THE EXPEDITION, GOA IS OF COURSE WELL WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS TO DENY LOGISTIC ASSISTANCE, AS ANTARCTIC TREATY PROVIDES FOR MAXIMUM COOPERATION AMONG PARTIES, THUS IMPLYING SOMETHING LESS FOR NON-PARTIES. OF COURSE, IF THERE HAD BEEN AN OUTRIGHT BA, PARTICULARLY ON BASIS OF ARGENTINE ANTARCTIC CLAIM (PARA 1 A OF REFTTEL A) THAT WOULD BE ANOTHER MATTER, BUT BLANCO, AT LEAST, SAYS THAT WAS NOT RPT NOT THE CASE.  
HILL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLORATION, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE019828  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** OES/APT/BMP:TSELLIN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760030-0340  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760117/aaaaaoio.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN OES  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 ROME 17306, 75 STATE 285072  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PLANNED ITALIAN EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SCUL, TGEN, XV, AR, IT  
**To:** SANTIAGO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006